

BARRE DAILY TIMES

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1917.

Entered at the Postoffice at Barre as Second-Class Mail Matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year, \$3.00
 One month, .25
 Single copy, 1 cent

Published Every Week-Day Afternoon by
 THE BARRE DAILY TIMES, INC.
 Frank E. Langley, Publisher.

And the name of the conqueror of Bagdad was Maude.

It smacks of irony to say that American merchantmen will not warn German submarines of attack.

Three full weeks to April 1; the legislature at Montpelier ought to make the most of them and adjourn.

The burning of 300,000 bushels of wheat in a Detroit elevator is not calculated to lighten the burden of living.

There was little watchful waiting on the grip for President Wilson. The nation is glad to hear he is back on his feet.

With the arrival of Von Bernstorff on neutral soil in Europe, the responsibility of the United States for him is at an end, thank heaven.

The release of the Americans on the Yarrowdale on the date scheduled by Germany removes a casus belli if not a cause of aggravation.

The Germans haven't any guns that can reach Vermont from the sea, but Vermont will be just as eager to defend the nation as the coast states are.

It is evident from the outbreak in Waterbury that Vermont has a 1916 legacy of infantile paralysis waiting for it just as soon as warmer weather arrives.

Canada wants a paltry \$100,000,000 for war purposes. Where is Canada going for the money? Needless question; right to New York. The United States is the world banker in fact.

The belligerents in Champagne ought to enlist the Ancient and Honorable Artillery of the U. S. A. Possibly that organization might show 'em a point or two in that kind of warfare.

What real good reason is there why the new Austrian ambassador should not desire to keep the Austrian embassy in its usual location, near the British embassy and backed against the residence of Secretary of State Lansing? Surely it would be in good company in the accustomed place in Washington.

The progress being made in the Vermont legislature of the bill to authorize the establishment of county hospitals for the treatment of tuberculosis patients is decidedly encouraging toward the much-needed campaign against the inroads of the disease in Vermont. It seems likely that the bill will be enacted into law.

As was to be expected, Viereck's publication, formerly the Fatherland, and devoted body and soul to the kaiser, glorifies Senator William J. Stone as the great American figure of the present day, pronouncing him "champion of peace and democracy in the United States Senate." Most Americans are willing to let Senator Stone have all the drooling adulation which Viereck is able to spread upon him for the reason that it is anti-American and pro-German all the time.

President Wilson has expressed his entire approval of the Connecticut plan for taking a military census of the people of that state, which is tantamount to the expression by him of approval of the plan set under way by Gov. Graham in Vermont, inasmuch as the Vermont system is patterned somewhat after the Connecticut idea. Connecticut and Vermont are the pioneers in a movement which is destined to become very important to the nation along the line of preparedness against aggression.

A census taken in 1914 showed a total of 5,190,461 maple trees in Vermont tapped for sugar making in the spring of that year, leaving 4,741,915 untapped. The coming spring at least one-half of the unused trees should be turned into producers of Vermont's incomparable crop. If 7,500,000 maple trees should be turned into producers this spring the income to Vermont in these days of exceptionally high prices would be splendid. The state really cannot afford to let these maple trees stand idle.

Although more than 2,000 votes are cast in the election, Greenfield, Mass., still adheres to the old town meeting with the voters all huddled in a single hall and knocking ribs in the congestion. Greenfield is big enough and prosperous enough to have a city form of government, with the city divided into wards and the voters going to six or more polling places. The town meeting form of government is all right until it becomes so badly congested as at Greenfield. A contrast is afforded in the proposed city of Newport, which might just as well get along under the present management.

The fall of Bagdad before the swift rush of the British probably means the elimination of Turkey as a dependable ally of the Teutons inasmuch as the Turks were unable to send reinforcements to the aid of the army forced out of Kut-el-Amara and driven northward toward the fabled city which fell Sunday. The dismemberment of the Turkish do-

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main in the near east is likely to follow, as another British army is advancing on Jerusalem and a Russian army is advancing from the direction of Persia. Turkey's resources have already suffered a tremendous drain through the sending of troops to aid in the invasion of Rumania; and the eastern domain necessarily had to be left more unprotected because of the German call for reinforcements. There seems to be no help for a large part of Turkey in Asia.

WHEN TO KEEP SILENT.

The patriotic newspapers of the country (and we hope the designation includes them all) will be prompt to acquiesce in any arrangement for secrecy which the United States government may have in reference to the movements of ships and troops whenever such secrecy is not rendered entirely futile by the nature of things. Yet it does seem rather far-fetched for the government to decide to arm merchant ships and send them boldly into the war zone, and at the same time strive to sneak those vessels through the peril as the request of Secretary Daniels of the navy department seems to indicate. There is entire lack of consistency in the two positions. If the nation is to arm merchant ships it means that the nation is going to meet the situation man fashion; to endeavor to sneak the vessels through the barred zone means that the United States does not feel sure of its ground and is unwilling to meet the gravity of the situation. Those two viewpoints as expressed by President Wilson and Secretary Daniels are quite incompatible. If we are going to arm merchantmen we might as well let the world know of it and of the departure of the ships. Germany surely will know of the movement of the ships regardless of whether the light of publicity is shed over the ships or not. To attempt to keep the movements secret is foolish. In other respects the newspapers could help the United States government materially by keeping discreetly silent; and it is to be expected that they will use discrimination in purveying the news.

JINGLES AND JESTS

His Plan.

An Irishman who was rather too fond of strong drink was asked by the parish priest:
 "My son, how do you expect to get into heaven?"
 The Irishman replied:
 "Shure, and that's aisy! When I get to the gates of heaven I'll open the door and shut the door, and open the door and shut the door, an' keep on doing that till St. Peter gets impatient and says, 'For goodness sake, Mike, either come in or stay out!'—Till-Bits.

Some Are Dangerous.

"Is woman really the weaker vessel?"
 "I dunno. You encounter one of the dreadnought type now and then."—Exchange.

That Settled It.

A young woman reporter on a country paper was sent out to interview leading citizens as to their politics. "May I see the gentleman of the house?" she asked of a large woman who opened the door at one residence.
 "No, you can't, answered the matron decisively.
 "But I want to know what party he belongs to," pleaded the girl.
 "Well, take a good look at me," she said sternly; "I'm the party he belongs to."—Ladies' Home Journal.

CURRENT COMMENT

The Brattleboro Logic.

We have been too busy to think about it but our good friend of the Barre Times points out that "Brattleboro's no-license majority of 407 makes that town the banner white-ribboner of the state." It is a commendable distinction and we are proud of it. In this connection it should be remembered that a year ago Brattleboro returned a majority of 538 in favor of the local option principle. Brattleboro people believe in local option for the state and prohibition for their home community.—Brattleboro Reformer.

Postmasters and Examinations.

The dismay of Democratic congressmen over the extension of the merit system to all postmasters of the first, second and third classes is the first convincing evidence to the people that the new rule will embody genuine reform of the postal service of the United States. The president is unable to change the law requiring that nominations of those postmasters be sent to the Senate for confirmation, but he may go far toward eliminating politics from the post-offices of the country by nominating those whose names stand at the top of the eligible lists made possible by competitive examinations.

It is erroneous to assume that this project necessarily would mean the indefinite retention in office of all the present Democratic postmasters. Their terms are for only four years and in order to be re-nominated they would have to take the examinations. Granted that their experience in office would give them an advantage in such competitive tests, it remains true that in replacing those postmasters who die or resign for any cause the government would not be at the mercy of the party spoilsman as it has always been hitherto. Many postmasters of demonstrated inefficiency, moreover, could be gotten rid of in this way at the end of their terms, if the examinations were honestly conducted.

While many Republican postmasters are still in service, the obvious criticism of the plan is that the Democratic administration takes this step only after filling thousands of offices with Democrats. But no previous Republican administration has ever ventured to take similar steps before the offices were well filled by its own partisans. President Taft waited until the end of his administration before replacing fourth-class postmasters in the classified service. It is unfortunate that very much of the country's reform in the civil service has had to come this way, but whatever of reform has been offered by the presidents, when the pressure upon them of the office seeking class has subsided, it has been well to accept without much grumbling over the partisan aspects of the situation. In time the postal service will be much benefited by the reform in nominations which President Wilson may now be able to introduce.—Springfield Republican.

"A Million Men for France!"

The full in official activities at Washington due to the president's uncertainty as to his power to act does not diminish the ultimate certainty that action will be necessary, and, therefore, it does not justify the slightest let-up in preparations. Postponement should mean nothing less than that when we do strike our stroke will be the mightier. It is observed that the naval officers, in spite of Mr. Daniels' handicapping presence, indicate an appreciation of this in their efforts to expedite the construction of the war craft already authorized by Congress, although the war department unhappily continues to hold back, or to be held back.

This at a time when "A million men for France" should be the slogan. Raise that slogan in America and more would be accomplished toward the breaking of Germany's morale, toward the breaking

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of Germany's military heart, than could be accomplished in any other way. The minute that the German armies and the German nation are brought to believe that America is to throw her whole force into the war, that minute will it be realized that the German cause is hopeless. Germany's venture in submarine warfare is predicated upon the belief that the advantages of unrestricted piracy will outweigh the dangers of half-hearted American participation. She counts upon this half-heartedness and upon the maintenance of our alleged separatism from the war, and not until her mind has been disabused of this confidence will the true import of American anger be realized.

When the call is issued for an American army of a million men, this confidence will be permanently dissipated. The men may never go to France, may never do more indeed than undergo the training which would furnish the nucleus for an adequate army of defense for future contingencies, but they would have taught the Germans an unforgettable lesson. A call for recruiting would strike fear into the German army as nothing else could do; it would proclaim to the worn soldiers on the Somme and back from Verdun the futility of their offensives; it would teach the careworn general staff that, once they had accomplished their unaccomplished task of killing off so many hundreds of thousands of Britons and Frenchmen at a carefully computed percentage of losses to their own brigades, there would stand between them and victory the countless legions of new men whom America had sent to begin the war anew; it would hasten the day of peace.—Boston Transcript.

Stern Arraignment of Fair Haven.

Personally we should prefer to see the town of Fair Haven vote no license. It voted for license by the usual beautiful majority Tuesday. We know it would be better off without the liquor business and so for that matter would every other city and town in the world. If we have got to continue to have the business it might be a good thing for the town to take it over and get the profit out of it as we did in the days when we had our town liquor agency. Although we have no recollection of there ever being a large profit in the agency management. As it is at present conducted it costs the town too much, too much in money, too much in loss of self respect. The town's one thought is booze. We wallow in it, we commit all the crime on the calendar on account of it. We are liars, perjurers, malefactors, criminals, just for the gratification of appetite and a few contaminated dollars. But the future is not altogether without hope. Some day we will come to our senses and the liquor dealer will be seeking other ways of parting the weak, the simple and the ne'er-do-well from their coin.—New Haven Era.

Vermont Newspapers.

The Brattleboro Reformer (Daily) enters upon its fifth year with a little crowd that is perfectly justified. Messrs. Hubbard Rice, Crane and the other live young men who sensibly combined two old weeklies and created an evening daily, with weekly edition, are publishing a newspaper that would be very creditable to more experienced journalists in the daily field and to a town much larger than Brattleboro. Such a newspaper is a valuable asset in a community.

In this connection it may be truly said that the daily press of Vermont is distinctly high class in every one of its representatives. The Burlington Free Press and Rutland Herald have clientele of which they may justly be proud, won by long and efficient service. The Burlington News and Rutland News complement them in the evening field. The St. Albans Messenger is a remarkably good newspaper considering the size of its territory. No bouquet is too good for the Barre Times. The Montpelier Argus has won out after a hard struggle and reflects prosperity in good improvement. The Bennington Banner did earlier what has been done in Brattleboro and with equal success. Even the fledgling St. Johnsbury Caledonian is beginning to try its wings with good prospect of continued flight, instead of dying in the nest as freely predicted.

The tendency of the present is distinctly toward the small daily newspaper, with its desirable combination of fresh general and local news and town correspondence. Still there is something left for the weeklies, and those in Vermont are making the most of it. They can cover the smaller communities more thoroughly than the dailies and, having more time at their disposal, can give more connected and complete stories on important happenings.—Randolph Herald.

New England Governors.

Governor McCall's invitation to the other New England executives to join him in a preparedness conference is both significant and sensible. It is a forcible reminder that one of the nation's first-rate men considers the present situation to be so grave that more is to be gained than lost by a frank admission of its probabilities. Up to a certain

HABIT

A man's striking force is measured by the habits behind it. What you can do at thirty depends on what you have been doing since twenty. Back of the man is always the boy; and boy habits make man character. The best habit to produce success is thrift. If you want to help the boy in the best way, teach him to save.

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We urged his dismissal last Monday. He was never equal to the responsibilities of the post, but above and beyond his personal shortcomings is the question of his public conduct since the sinking of the Lusitania. The morning after that massacre he sneered at the American dead and sought to fix upon their corpses the blame that belonged to Germany. Ever since he has seemed to sympathize with Germany whenever its interests came into conflict with those of the United States. Only a continuation of his misconduct in the past was his unwillingness to press to passage the bill giving the president the authority he requested to arm American merchantmen, although it had been favorably reported by his committee, and his potent partnership in the filibuster that prevented the passage of the bill.

Worse, however, than all was his betrayal on the floor of the Senate of a vital secret of naval defense. That secret was told him in confidence as the chairman of the committee which shares with the president his constitutional responsibility for the conduct of foreign relations. It was told him by those who trusted his loyalty, and by giving it away he proved his unfitness for the trust. Small wonder that he has earned the praise of the press of Germany by his course in the Senate of the United States. By the same token he has earned the contempt of the people of the United States speaking through their press. No member of the government would be warranted in entrusting to Senator Stone any further military, naval or diplomatic secrets. No member

of the committee on foreign relations ought to attend an executive session of that committee while he remains as its chairman.

If, in the face of the nation's indictment, Senator Stone refuses to retire, his immediate deposition by the Senate will become the imperative duty of that body. The initiative should be taken by the Democrats, who are in the majority, but if they require assistance it should be freely and promptly given by the Republicans. Neither personal nor political predilection must be allowed to delay, much less prevent, the purging of the foreign relations committee of the presence of William Joel Stone as its chairman.—Boston Transcript.

Honey No Longer Here.

A young Californian often visited a leading Santa Barbara hotel because of its excellent honey.

When the young man got married the wedding trip included Santa Barbara, so that the bride might taste this superb honey.

But the first morning at the Santa Barbara hotel there was no honey on the breakfast table. The bridegroom frowned. He called the old familiar waiter over to him.

"Where's my honey?" he demanded. The waiter hesitated, looked awkwardly at the bride, then bent toward the young man's ear and in a stage whisper stammered:

"Er—Mamie don't work here no more, sir."—Ladies' Home Journal.

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